

ALL ABOUT THE

UNMN



An activity book

Welcome

To the University of Minnesota! Let's get to know some figures from the U's past, and present.



Hi, I'm Goldy Gopher, the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Mascot from 1985 when I was redesigned to be evil. In 1986, in response to public criticism they made me look less evil, but I am still, in fact, evil.

Hi, I'm Lotus Delta Coffman, yep, that's my real name. When I was President of the U from 1920-1938, I refused to let Black students live on campus.



Hi, I'm Pounce the Cougar. Did you know each UMN campus has their own mascot? And that UMN Morris, where I'm from, used to be the Morris Industrial School for Indians, a residential boarding school?

Hi, I'm Dr. Raz Segal, I was offered a job leading the U's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, but they revoked it after seeing that I described Israel's action in Gaza as "A textbook case of genocide."



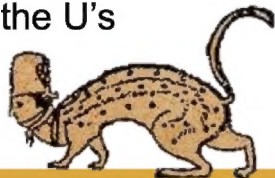
History

The University of Minnesota was founded in 1851, before Minnesota was even a state. The University struggled financially throughout its first few years until the Morrill Act of 1862 allowed it to profit from the sale and resource rights of stolen Dakota land.

Over the next hundred and fifty years the U would grow exponentially, adding graduate programs and revolutionizing medicine and agriculture. At the same time, the University would also perpetuate and institute racist and colonial policies and practices, displace nearby residents by forcibly redeveloping the areas surrounding the campus, and create an administrative state that demands absolute compliance from the students it saddles with debt.

Today, the U is one of the largest university systems in America, with nearly 70,000 students across five campuses: Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester and the Twin Cities. The University's endowment is more than \$5 billion and has been bolstered by donations, tuition, patents and still some of the resource rights to those original Morrill Act holdings.

In this activity book, we will take a look at the U's history, and engage with some truths that the U might prefer remain obscure.



Gopher Fact!

The original Golden Gopher was this horrible little guy, drawn by Robert O. Sweeny for an arcane and undecipherable political cartoon. This is why Minnesota is the Gopher State and the U's Mascot is Goldie Gopher.

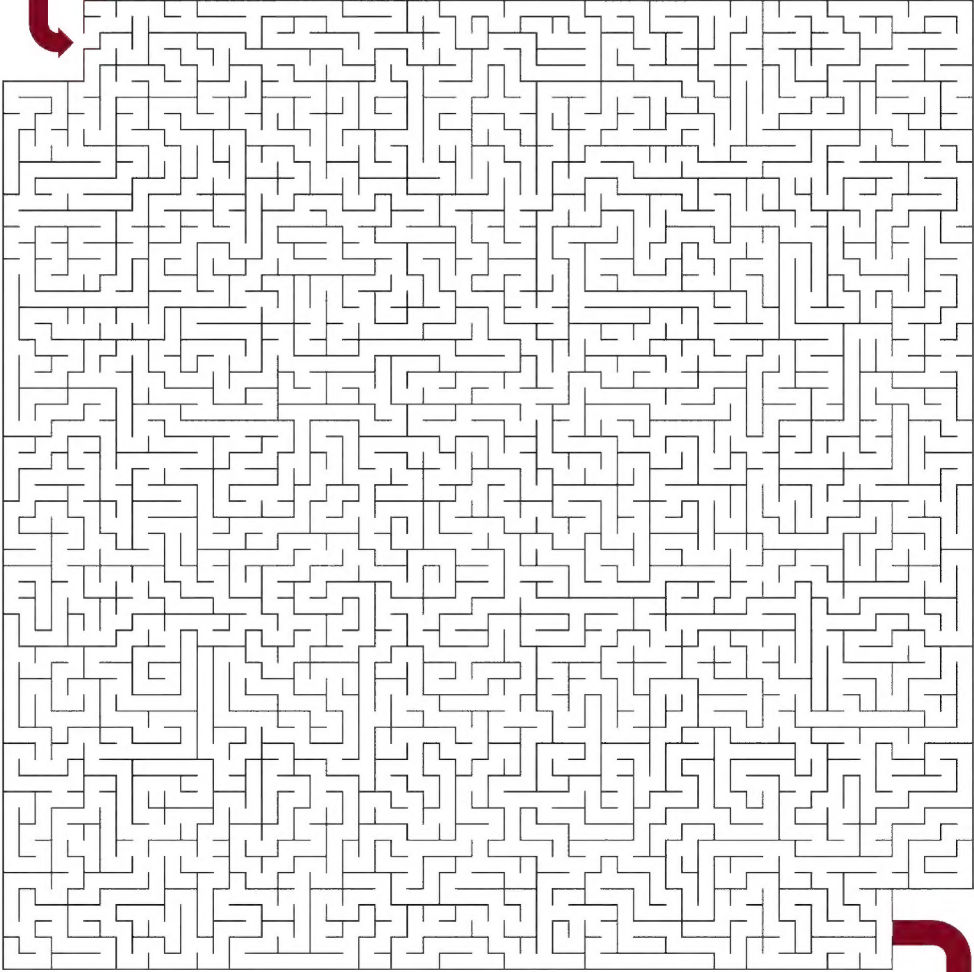
Land Grab Universities

The Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 allowed the sale of lands that the US Government purchased from Indigenous nations to be sold for the benefit of public universities. Often the land was sold for much more than the Indigenous nations were paid for it. There were 7,740 pieces of land sold this way in Minnesota; 316 of them (94,631 acres or shy of 150 square miles) benefitted the very new University of Minnesota.

Can you help this parcel of land in Faribault County, seized from the Sisseton and Wahpeton Dakota, be sold to benefit the U?



Bought for \$15.51



Sold for \$4,015.99

In Search of Truth

Released in 2023, the TRUTH (Towards Recognition and University-Tribal Healing) Report was an meticulous dive into the history of the U's relationship with tribal nations, and in its recommendations a welcome excoriation of the framework of Truth and Reconciliation.

Can you fill in the blanks to find the hidden message in this summary of the report?

The University of Minnesota profited from the dispossession of Indi_enous people from their lands, both as an institution and through the individual actions of its R_gents. The U continues to profit from the timber and mi_eral rights from this land and has refused calls to repatriate. It has worked to undermine tribal s_vereignty through things like the nonconsensual development of paddy grown wild ri_e, medical experimentation on ch_ldren in Red Lake, and others. Today, the University un_erinvests in Indigenous studies and its Indigenous stud_nts. For these and other reasons we can conclude that the University of Minnesota is complicit in:



Meet the Regents

The University of Minnesota is governed by a board of 12 Regents who are appointed by the Governor. The regents choose the president, can set the number of professors and their salaries, and have final say over all policies of the University.

Henry
Hastings
Sibley

Socrates
Nelson

Ignatius
Donnelly

Alexander
Ramsey

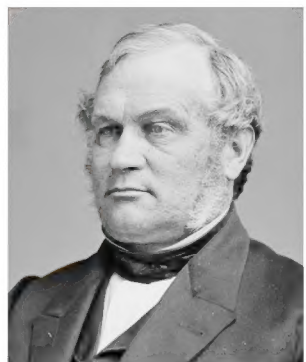
Knute
Nelson

Edward
Duffield
Neill

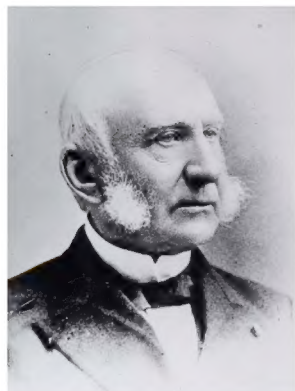
1.



2.

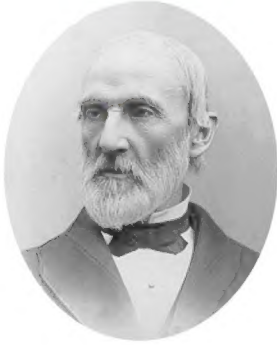


3.



Gopher Fact!

These are historic regents, but the modern ones can get questionable too! In 2022 Regent Steve Sviggum suggested that declining enrollment at UMN Morris was because of “too much diversity.”



4.

Abandoned his dying Dakota wife, leaving their child to be raised by missionaries while he remarried

Called for the Dakota people to be “exterminated, or driven forever beyond the borders of the state”

No Known Photograph

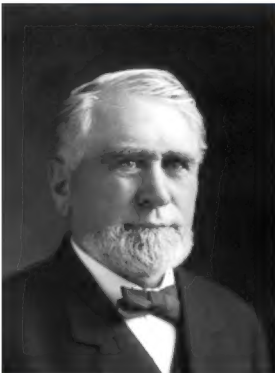
Namesake of the 1889 Nelson Act, to illegally dissolve the White Earth Ojibwe Reservation.

Vehemently opposed coeducation, founded Macalester College

5.

Author and publisher of “Atlantis: the Antediluvian World”

Supported bringing enslaved people to Minnesota without emancipation



6.

Student Surveillance

Edward E. Nicholson was the U's Dean of Student Affairs from 1919 to 1941. During this time he had staff and students surveil students organizations and shared his reports with regents and political operatives to further his anti-progressive, antisemitic and anti-union agenda. His decades spying on students orgs began in 1920 against a group called the Seeker's Club, founded by two Jewish students from New York who Nicholson assumed to be leftist and subversive.

Can you decode this line from one of the actual reports? Hint: A=1

1-20-20-5-14-4-1-14-3-5-

-20-8-9-18-20-25- -13-1-10-15-18-9-20-25-

-10-5-23-9-19-8- -6-15-18-5-9-7-14-

-1-3-3-5-14-20-19- -15-14-5-

-3-15-12-15-18-5-4- -13-1-14-



Gopher Fact!

One of Nicholson's spies on the Seekers, Eunice Nielsen, resigned because her mother considered it "too big a risk...since there are such a large number of Jews that are members."

History of (Acceptable) Student Protest

There is a long history of protest at the U as students use their only lever of power to demand change. But all too often, protests are coopted after the fact into the mainstream narrative of the U.

Circle which protests are key parts of the U's history and which are violent disruptions that needed to be quashed.

1969 Morrill Hall occupation, to demand an African American and African Studies department

1985 Anti-Apartheid protests

1970 Anti-ROTC demonstration at Morrill Hall

1971 Morrill Hall occupation to demand a Chicano Studies department

2024 Student encampment in support of divestment from Israel

1972 "Eight Days in May" protesting the Vietnam War

2024 Morrill Hall Occupation, renaming it Halimy Hall in support of divestment from Israel

2015 Whose Diversity? Morrill Hall occupation to demand further investment in ethnic studies

Development Across the River



The U used to be only on one side of the river! Isn't that wild. Here's campus in 1962, with the expansions planned. Draw in the beautiful brutalist buildings you think should go in the new campus land. Don't think about if anybody already lives over there, or how that might feel. Just think about all the cement we can pour over there!



LEGEND

AREAS OF INTENDED
LONG RANGE EXPANSION

PROPERTY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF MINNESOTA (DEC. 1962)

LEGEND

AREAS OF INTENDED
LONG RANGE EXPANSION

PROPERTY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF MINNESOTA (DEC. 1962)

LEGEND

AREAS OF INTENDED
LONG RANGE EXPANSION

PROPERTY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF MINNESOTA (DEC. 1962)

Building (Re)Naming

The U has commemorated a number of its administrators by naming buildings after them. Unfortunately, some of them are not the sort of people you want to be honoring in this way.

Can you match the person to their job, the building with their namesake, and their unsavory actions? Also, one of the buildings has had its name revoked - which one do you think it is?

Lotus Delta
Coffman

Comptroller
1925-43
VP of Business
Administration
1943-59

William T.
Middlebrook

Dean of Student
Affairs
1917-41

Edward E.
Nicholson

Dean of
Agriculture
1920-41
President
1941-45

Walter
Castella
Coffey

President
1920-38

1.



Re-segregated
campus housing

2.



Censored political
speech on campus
and spied on
students

3.



Implemented
segregated
housing and
displaced
residents in what
would become the
U's West Bank

4.



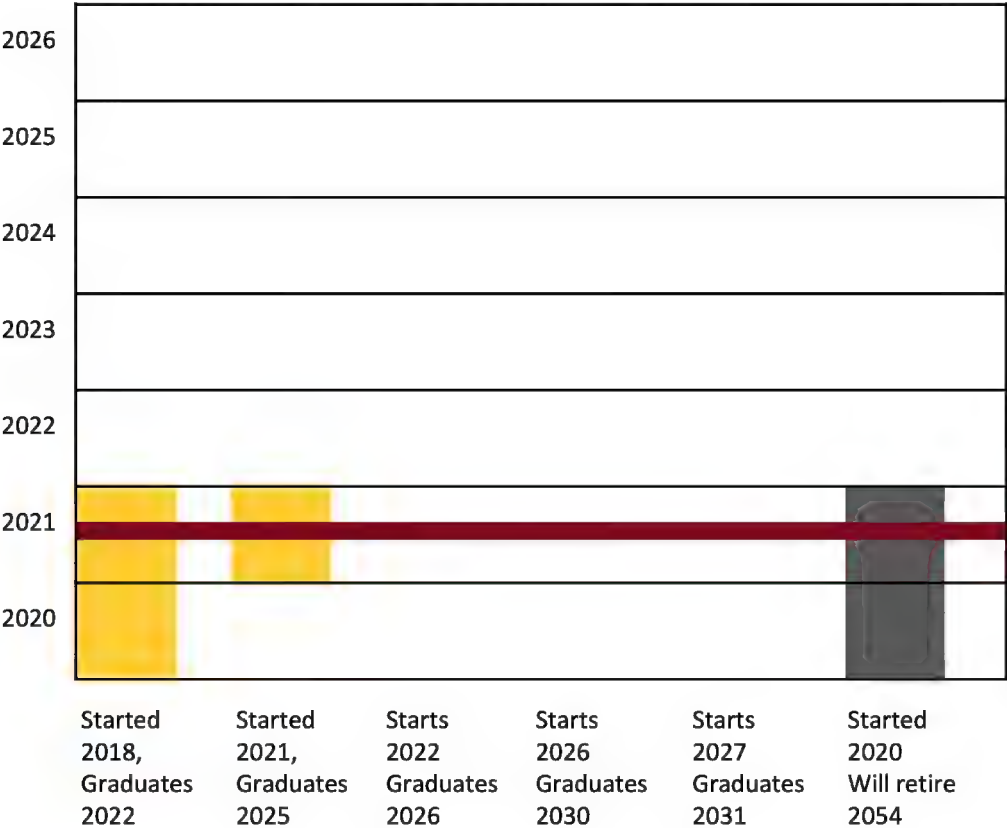
Set a policy of
segregation of
student housing

When Do Students Forget?

Administrators rely on the fact that the student body has an incredibly short memory. This lets them make changes that get quickly accepted as normal.

Below is a chart, students (yellow) and an administrator (grey), and an event that happened in 2021 (horizontal line). Let's call it "requiring keycards to enter all buildings on campus."

As long as there are students who remember this starting, they can tell younger students that this event happened. At what point will the last student remember it? And how many years after the event happens will it pass from memory among the students? How about the administrator?



Cost of College Over Time

The cost of college has skyrocketed over time. As the Great Satan, Ronald Reagan, slashed educational spending, universities began to corporatize, to great financial success. Administrators know that higher education has become necessary for students to enter the job market and they, along with the government, learned that increasing education costs and saddling students with massive debt is a means of control.

In 1960, a semester of tuition at the U for a resident cost \$213 (\$2,222 adjusted for inflation), and minimum wage was \$1 (\$10.64) an hour.

How many weeks of full time work would it have taken a student to pay for tuition?

For the 2024-25 school year, a semester of tuition and fees cost \$17,370. Minimum wage in Minnesota is currently \$15.57 an hour.

How many weeks of full time work would it take a student to pay tuition today?

Gopher Fact!

In 2022, the undergraduate UMN students had an average cumulative median debt of \$21,113. For master's graduates, \$40,232 and for doctoral graduates, \$73,906.



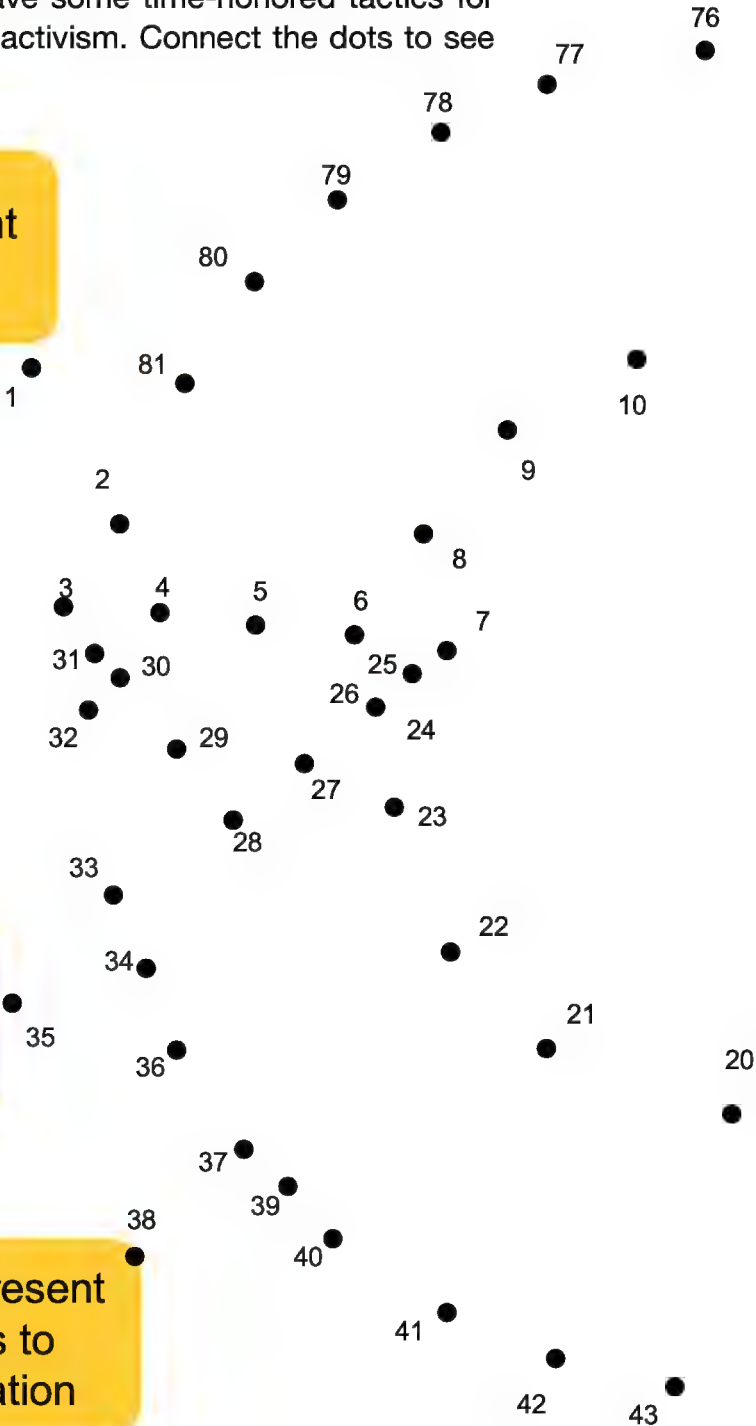
Cycles of Student Activism

Administrators have some time-honored tactics for avoiding student activism. Connect the dots to see what the cycle is

An Incident Happens

Students Protest

Students present demands to administration

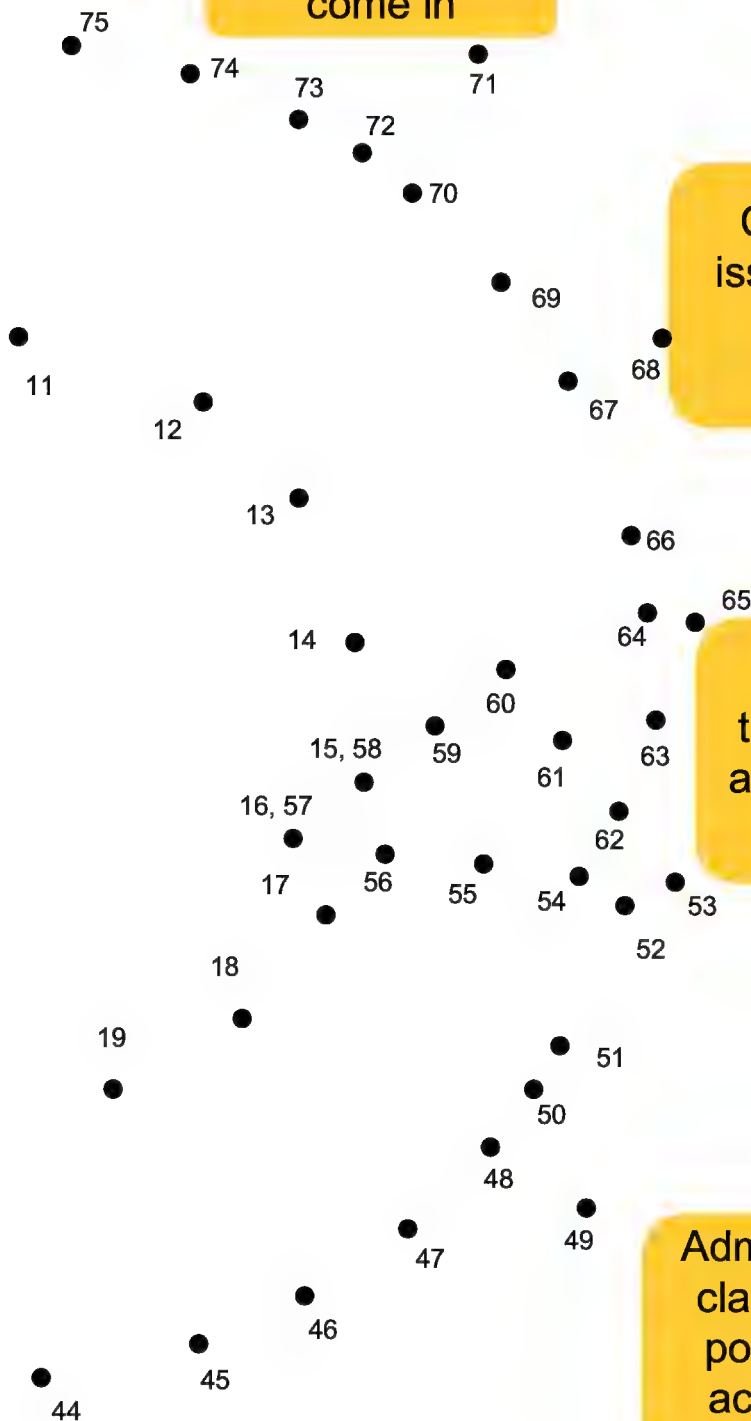


New students
come in

Committee
issues report.
Nothing
changes

Committee
takes months,
active students
graduate

Administrators
claim no real
power, refer
actions to a
committee



Tenure: The Board Game

Hear that? An 85 year old professor just died, which means there's a tenure track job available. Time to take the Road to Tenure! This game plays best with a D4 dice and some friends!

Welcome to the job market!
Put your applications together

You got a visiting professorship, get ready to move in a year when it ends.

The job search went with an internal candidate. Go back to start.

One of your references sabotaged your application. Go back to start.

Associate Professor

You made it to a sabbatical. Free space.

The Provost has it out for you. Go back one space.

The committee approved you for tenure! Great job!

Roll the dice. If you roll a 1, your department loses more funding. If you roll a 2, your department loses 2-3 spaces. If you roll a 3, your department loses 3-4 spaces. With a 4, you are fine.

Major college funding cuts! Flip a coin, heads you get cut and go back to start.

Your second book came back with some heavy edits. Go back two spaces.

You get to be the chair this year! Skip your next turn.

You are now a full professor. You win!

You got a
tenure track
job! Congrat-
ulations.

Oops, they
read your
twitter and
revoked your
job offer.
Back to start.

Your
department has
deep-seated
interpersonal
tensions.
Go back two
spaces.

Assistant Professor

Class
enrollment is
down. Roll the
dice, 3 or 4 you
get to stay,
otherwise back
to start

You were too
busy teaching
to work on your
book.
Skip next turn.

The chair has
some
"concerns"
about your
teaching.
Go back one
space.

Whoa, you've done it,
you've retired!
Congratulations Emeritus
Professor!
Have fun in the library.

Smooth sailing
from here on
out! This
square could
last from five to
fifty years

Full Professor

There's a sexual
harassment
scandal in your
dept. Go back a
square and think
about complicity.

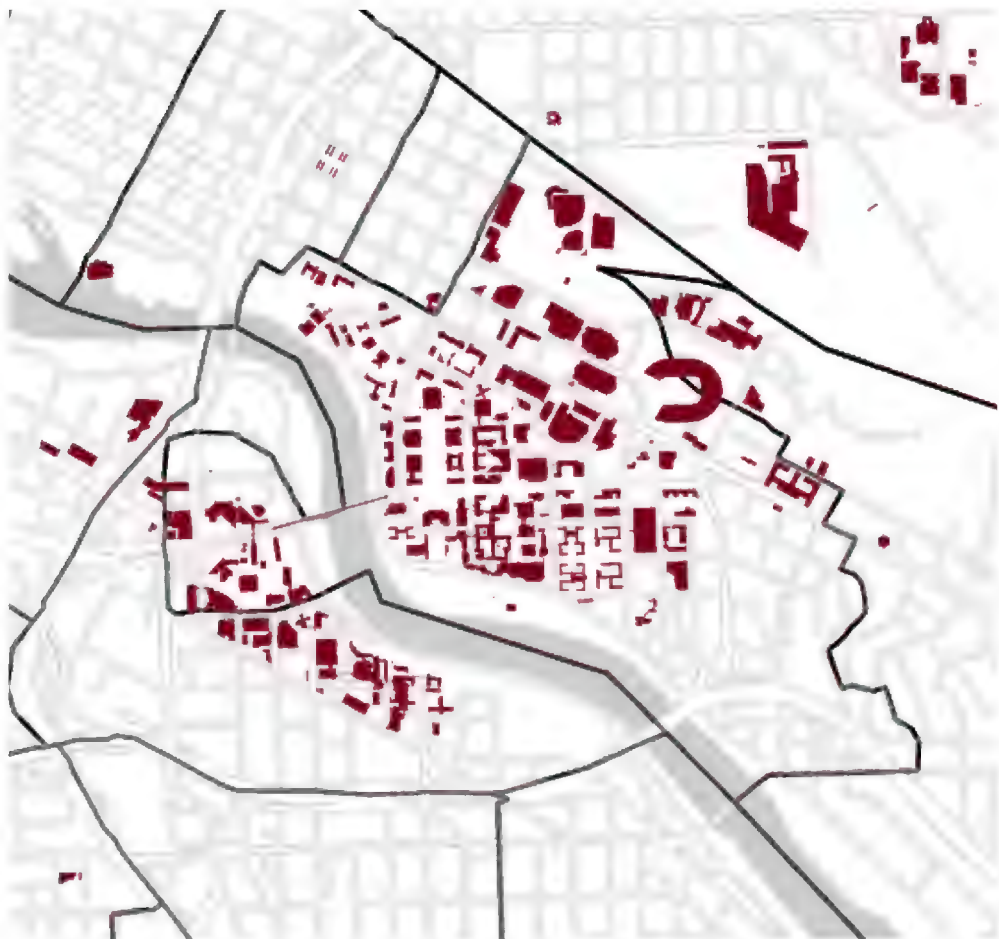
Your college is
going under.
And you were
safe! Roll the
dice, a 1 sends
you back to
start.

More budget
cuts! But
they're offering
you a buyout.
Go forward two
squares!

Gentrification

Universities have a tendency to eat the neighborhoods that surround them, promoting development and buying property in aggressive ways that force out longtime residents.

Of the neighborhoods that surround the U, color in the ones you think were found to be vulnerable to gentrification in 2000. Also color in which you think were found to have gentrified in 2019.



DIY Open Letter

Open letter writing is a proud part of the tradition of academia. Signing one is easy, but putting one together can be time consuming, until now! Use this handy template to respond to the latest atrocity at your university!

Dear **Administrator**

We, the undersigned **(students/staff/faculty)** would like to condemn in the strongest possible terms, the University's recent **(incident that incited the letter)**. We feel that it **(harms/denigrates/incites violence)** against **(minoritized group on campus)**.

We feel that this clearly violates the universities stated value of **(academic freedom/creating a safe learning environment/neoliberalism)**.

We would like to demand the following three reasonable, attainable, and constructive steps that the university will never take.

1. **(Support students)**
2. **(Stop funding something it is currently funding)**
3. **(Create a scholarship program)**

We implore the University to live up to its values and **(make this right/not do this again/not do this again a second time)**.

We also assume that since this is an open letter, it will be **(ignored outright/ referred to a committee where it will be ignored)** and that we, the undersigned, will be **(fired/expelled/not asked to return next semester/killed)**.

Apples

Historically, if universities used federal money to develop products, they couldn't privately hold the patents on them. Following the Bayh-Dole act of 1980, this changed and universities became able to use federal funds to develop and keep private patents.

The Honeycrisp apple was patented in 1988 by the University. Which of the other apples below also have patents owned by the U?



First Kiss



Red Delicious



Cosmic Crisp



SweetTango



SugarBee



Regent



Haralson



Pink Lady



Zestar



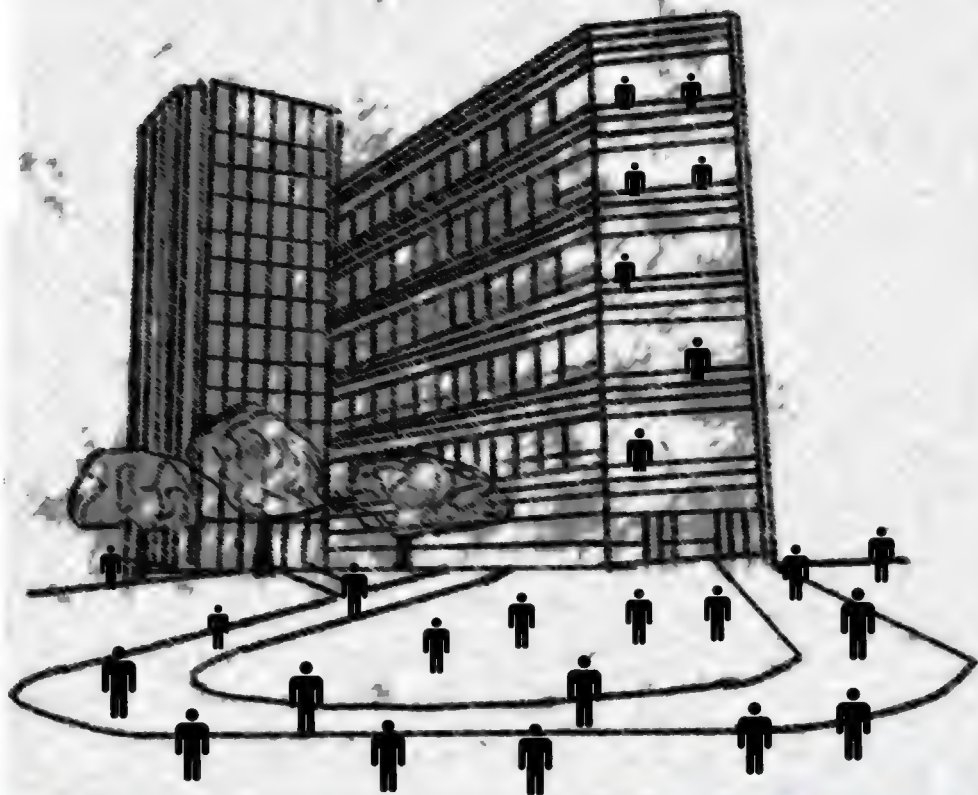
Gopher Fact!

The US patent for honeycrisp expired in 2008, during which time it became the U's third most lucrative patent, making more than \$10 million! Some overseas patents didn't expire until 2019 or 2031, leaving millions more to be made!

Can You Find the Administrators?

The number of administrators employed by universities has increased dramatically in the past three decades. From 1999 to 2010, the number of administrators at the U increased by 75%. During this time the faculty increased by 17%, which gives you an idea of the priorities of the university.

Can you find all of the 19,032 administrative staff of the U in this picture of the West Bank administrative building?



Gopher Fact!

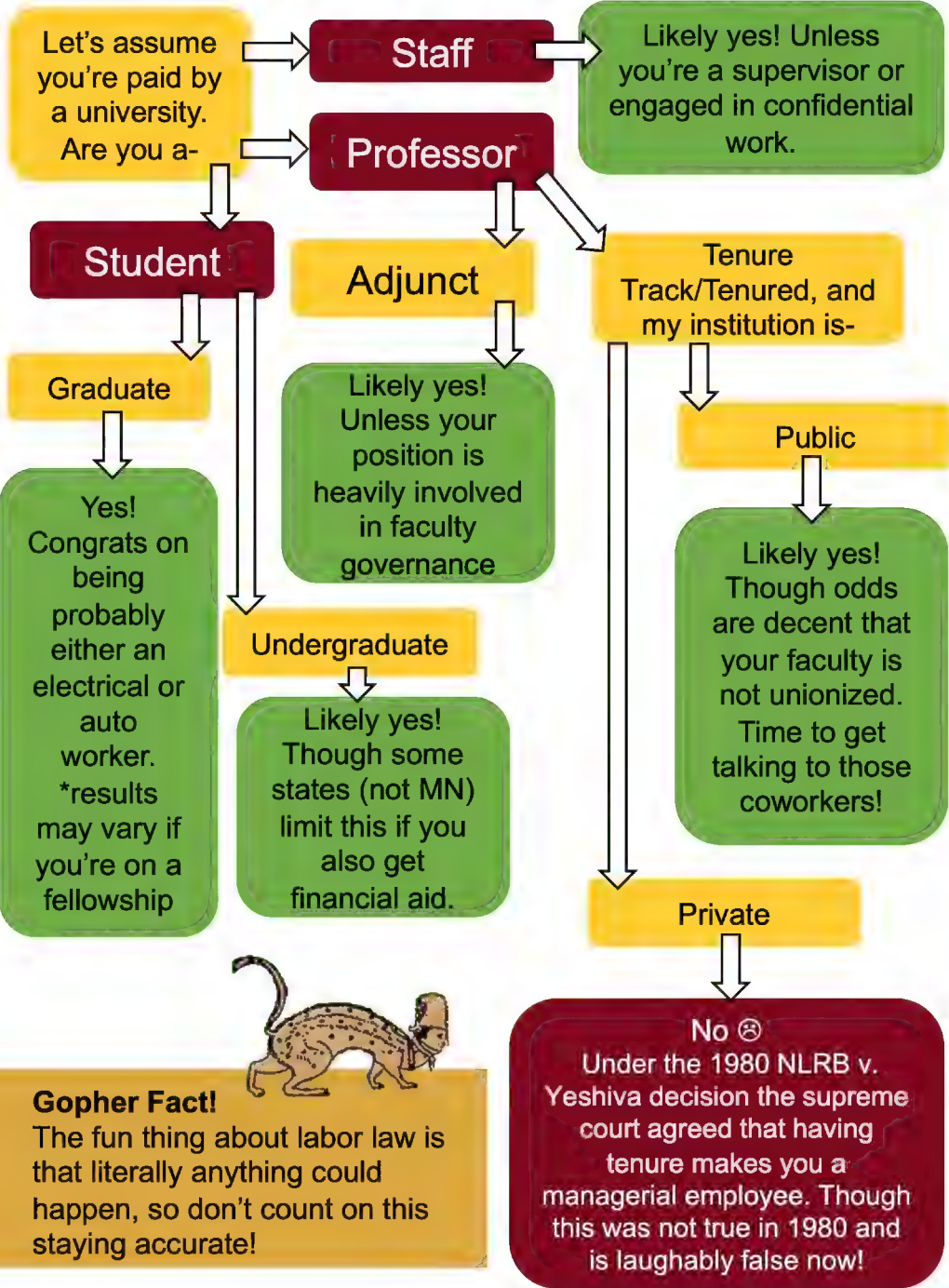
The Minneapolis UMN campus is divided by the Mississippi River and the sides are called the East Bank and West Bank.

This can be disorienting the first times you hear it.



Unionization: Path To a Union

As higher ed continues to corporatize, many exploited workers have turned to organized labor. Let's take a look to see if you're eligible!



Unions: Can You Find These Values?

Union contract negotiations are an excruciating process. Usually the union proposes language for management to respond to. Management's responses speak to their priorities.

Below are the identities the union wanted nondiscrimination protection for, can you find them all in the final contract?

Y L O P I I R P O L T W B F S E U E B M
Z T W Q C R G W A M Z Q D Q U C T V W M
G M I R R E X I S T A T U S T S A O Y Y
W K E L N B L E G A T B Y Q A O R Z C U
U E T D A I W M A U Y E E C T M V H N N
D Q E I M N W C C S Z T W J S Y T N A Y
O R E A J I O H L E W I I T L P K V N K
C T F K Q I B I T X D R M L A M O T G B
H O G J X X F K T U L A N O I G I L E R
I N L P V V J P A A C C Q K T B L M R P
L Z U O F D Y C T L N E I T R V A X P S
O A G D R B W T Q I S K I L A T L S J X
S N Q V D Q F H Q T L A W M M S Q D I C
Q X Z H X H G W H Y L Z Z H A W Z S G D
C Y F Y S B Z X A B T H H Q A V L J N O

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Age | Disability | Political Affiliation |
| Caste | Familial Status | Pregnancy |
| Color | Gender | Race |
| Creed | Martial Status | Religion |
| | Nationality | Sexuality |



Gopher Fact!

A previous pass from UMN management said that respectful work environments free of abuse and intimidation did not apply to graduate assistants in work on their dissertations.

Course Evaluation for White Instructors

The course evaluation is an important way for students to give feedback about their course and class experience. For adjunct and tenure-track faculty, they are essential for continuing employment. For tenured faculty, they are often read through tears of laughter over a glass of wine. However, faculty with marginalized identities have been found to face negative biases in these student evaluations. Therefore, this form has been developed specifically for BIPOC students to review White instructors.

Instructor Name:

Course:

Does the instructor:	Yes	No
Make you feel safe in the classroom?		
Expect you to speak on behalf of your entire (implicitly monolithic) group?		
Think that diversity of opinions is sated by hearing from both liberals and republicans?		
Use in-group racialized terms they should not be using?		
Compliment and affirm white students for doing the exact same things that you receive criticism for doing?		
Look directly at you while reading aloud texts with racially questionable terminology?		
Expect you to produce content about your marginalized identities for their course?		
Ask you to attend office hours to “chat about your experience in the class?”		

Has the instructor called you the name of one of the other nonwhite students in the class?

Yes No What ‘other nonwhite students’?

Please select all the following terms you have heard the instructor use to avoid talking explicitly about race:

“Vibrant” “Historically marginalized” “Diverse” “Urban”
“Disadvantaged” “Unassimilated” “[racial slur]”

You make an insightful point in class. A white student then repeats your point but makes it worse. What happens?

How does the instructor create distance from their whiteness? (Circle all that apply.)

- Highlighting a different marginalized identity
- Strategic deployment of clothing/jewelry made by nonwhite people
- Repeatedly bringing up a nonwhite family member (especially a spouse or child)
- Talking extensively about their travels
- They don’t create distance, but they get way too into the “as a white person” thing

The instructor’s whiteness is best described as:

Durable Uninterrogated Fragile Overwhelming

Thank you for taking time to review the instructor. This feedback will be anonymized for your protection but, let’s be honest, they’ll know it’s you.

In Conclusion

The university exists, transparently, as a corporation. As a student, you are but a commodity. Your blood, sweat, tears and most importantly, tuition dollars are drops of oil to grease the vast machine.

The University of Minnesota is larger and more stable than most of its peers, as smaller institutions collapse as a result of their failed corporate model, the U is likely to survive. But its academic programs survive under a self imposed austerity. The priority is profit. Scholarship, labor organization, student welfare are all secondary.

The devaluation of the arts and humanities are a prime example. Academic production in these areas does not create the next \$10 million apple. They exist to launder reputation. Therefore it is your obligation to know and share as much unsavory history as you are able. The university cannot be allowed to control its reputation, its secrets must be dragged into the light.

Fred Moten and Stefano Harney write, the only possible relationship to the university is a criminal one. It is your obligation to extract as much value from the U as possible by any means necessary.



Gopher Fact!

We didn't even talk about the U's policing! The scam that is business school! Investments in weapons and oil! There's so much more to uncover!

Answer Key and Citations-

Cover- Image citations

Background cover, map of UMN campus building

- UMN Campus Buildings. Ryan Matke.

Left- An early Goldie Gopher

- Minnesota Gophers Facebook page. November 22, 2011

Center- Student journalist Tyler Church detained at a pro Palestinian protest.

- US Press Freedom Tracker. October 23, 2024. "Student journalist detained at University of Minnesota protest."

Right- Albert E Jenks, eugenicist and founder of the UMN anthropology department

- Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 90-105, Science Service Records, Image No. SIA2008-4420

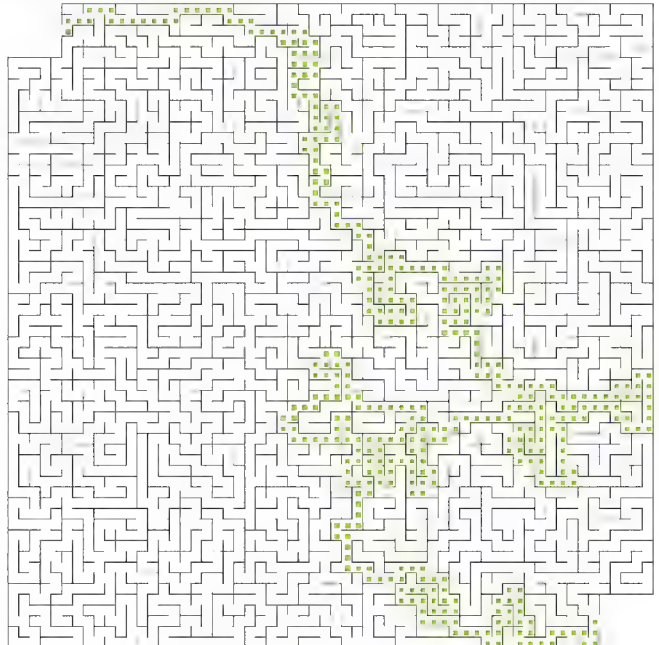
History

- Ryan Barland. August 25, 2014. "University of Minnesota's Evolution of Goldy the Gopher." The Daily Gopher.
- Kevin Dragseth. June 10, 2021. "Who made Minnesota the Gopher State?" TPT Originals.

Land Grab Universities

Sources

- Robert Lee. March 2020. "Morrill Act of 1862 Indigenous Land Parcels Database," *High Country News*.
- Kyle Malone. 2023 "Towards Recognition and University-Tribal Healing (TRUTH)." Center for Urban and Regional Affairs & Resilient Communities Project. (note, this is a storymap not the full report)



In Search of Truth

The University of Minnesota is found to have committed:
GENOCIDE

Sources

- Marielle Mohs. April 13, 2024. "Report: University of Minnesota "committed genocide" of Native people." WCCO News.
- The TRUTH Project. 2023. "Oshkigin Noojimo'iwe, Naġi Wan̄ P̄etu Un̄ Ihduwaš'ake He Oyate Kiŋ Zaniwičaye Kte."

Meet the Regents

Henry Hastings Sibley- 4. Abandoned his wife

Socrates Nelson- 5. Supported slavery

Ignatius Donnelly- 1. Atlantis

Alexander Ramsey- 2. Extermination

Knute Nelson- 6. Dissolving White Earth

Edward Duffield Neill- 3. Macalester College

Sources

- Minnesota Historical Society. September 18, 2020. "Knute Nelson." MNopedia
- Rhoda R Gilman. May 28. 2019. "Ignatius Donnelly." Mnopedia.
- The TRUTH Project. 2023. "Oshkigin Noojimo'iwe, Naġi Wan̄ P̄etu Un̄ Ihduwaš'ake He Oyate Kiŋ Zaniwičaye Kte."
- University of Minnesota Charter, Territorial Laws 1851, Chapter 3, The Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Article XIII, Section 3.

Student Surveillance

The decoded message is an attendance list, it reads: Attendance: Thirty. Majority Jewish, foreign accents. One colored man.

Sources

- *A Campus Divided*. 2017, curated by Riv-Ellen Prell and Sarah Atwood.



Gopher Fact!

There was slightly more room at the bottom this page than I needed

History of (Acceptable) Student Protest

Generally, anything before 2000 is acceptable. The 1969 and 1971 occupations were even successful in their aims, but anything after the 90s is dangerous and unacceptable

Sources

- Alan Berg. May 12, 1997. "UMN SDS Statement of Halimy Hall Occupation." The Minnesota Daily.
- Elizabeth Giorgi. November 3, 2005. "Students Walk Out to Protest Iraq War." The Minnesota Daily.
- Estelle Timar-Wilcox, Peter Cox, Cari Spencer and Andrew Krueger. May 2, 2024. "Pro-Palestinian protesters, University of Minnesota reach agreement to end encampment." MPR News.
- "The Eight Days in May Protest." June 3, 2015. Forgotten Minnesota.
- Hannah Ward and Samantha Siedow. September 17, 2024. "Protest tensions echo 1985 fight for South Africa divestment." The Minnesota Daily
- Hannah Ward. October 22, 2024. "Three non-students arrested for Morrill Hall occupation." The Minnesota Daily.
- Jessica Lopez Lyman. September 16, 2020. "Department of Chicano and Latino Studies, University of Minnesota?" MNopedia
- Katelyn Morken. June 25, 2020. "1970 Student Strike—50 Years Later." UMN Libraries.
- "The Takeover: Whose Diversity? Sit-In at President Kaler's Office." Whose Diversity?
- Mady Leick. November 26, 2024. "Repeating History: the 1969 Morrill Hall occupation." The Minnesota Daily.
- "UMN SDS Statement of Halimy Hall Occupation." November 7, 2024. Southside Pride.

Development Across the River

Sources

- "Campus map highlighting areas of intended long range expansion." In Gone into History: 90 Years of the University of Minnesota Archives, 2018
- Erin George. The West Bank Rises. September 18, 2019. UMN Libraries
- Jim Fuller and Bob Kozar. May 27, 1957. "University Expansion – What they think across the river." Ivory Tower.
- Our Streets, in collaboration with Heritage Studies and Public History. 2023. "Concrete River: A History of I-94 in Cedar Riverside."

Building (Re)naming

Coffman- president 1920-38 - 1- set a policy of segregation.

Nicholson- Dean- 3- censored political speech and spied on students. **This is the one that got revoked**

Middlebrook- Comptroller, VP of Business Admin - 2- implementing segregation, developing the West bank.

Coffey- Dean of Ag and President- 4- Resegregated housing

Sources

- Report of the Task Force on Building Names and Institutional History. February 25, 2019.

When Do Students Forget?

About four years after the event, it will be gone from living student memory, and administrators will be able to take for granted that students will likely not question it. Four more years later and it will have left word of mouth transmission entirely.

Sources

- Daria Chamness and Jennings Mergenthal. 2024. "Institutional Amnesia" presentation at Universities and Power.

Cost of College Over Time

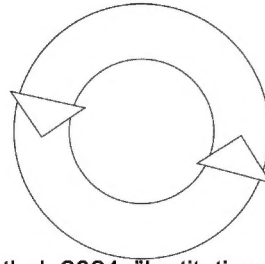
In 1960, it would have taken just under 5.5 weeks to pay tuition, assuming a 40 hour work week. Today it's nearly 28 weeks.

Sources

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Wouldn't you know, its an academic ouroboros



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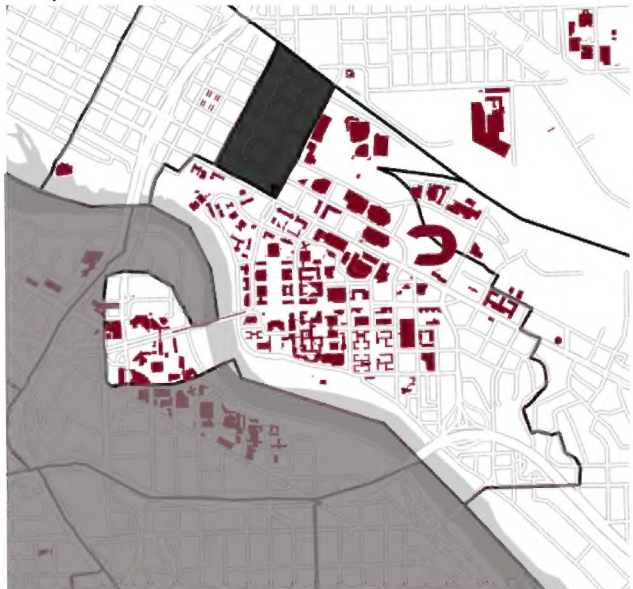
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Apples

First Kiss, SweeTango, Zestar, Regent and Haralson are all owned by the U. Cosmic Crisp and SugarBee are descended from Honeycrisp but are not held by the U, neither are Pink Lady or Red Delicious.

Sources

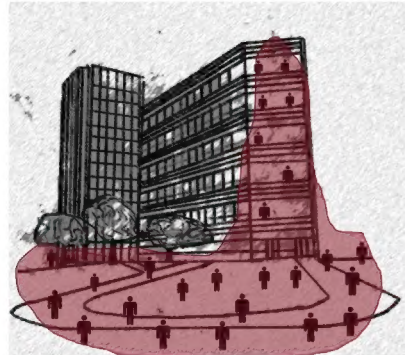
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Can You Find the Administrators?

Here are 25 of them. The other 1,907 are inside.

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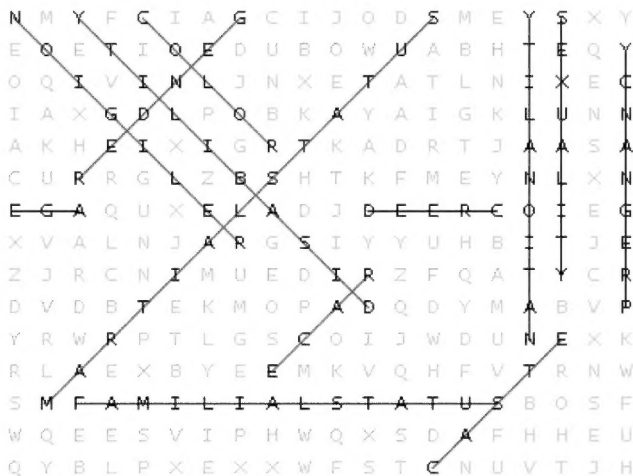
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Unionization Word Search

You won't be able to
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as a protected
category!



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